



# **FLEGT Field Exchange Programme**

**Learning from best field practices**



**Experiences from Friends of the Earth-Ghana**

---

26-30 May 2015

# I. Contents

1.	Contents .....	2
2.	Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	3
3.	Background.....	4
4.	What was the FFEP intended to achieve? .....	4
5.	What was the Approach? .....	5
6.	What did the FFEP involve? .....	5
6.1	Official Opening Session .....	5
6.2	Technical session on the WTS .....	6
6.3	Visit to the Suhuma Forest Reserve .....	7
6.4	Visit to the factory of John Bitar and Co. Ltd .....	9
6.5	Traditional authorities and communities.....	11
6.6	Visit to the artisanal milling site at Akrodie .....	12
7.	Conferences with Ghanaian stakeholders in the forestry sector.....	13
7.1	Discourse with the Ghanaian Civil Society Organisations .....	13
7.2	Exchange with the Private Sector.....	14
8.	Any lessons from the FFEP?.....	15
8.1	Effective involvement of all stakeholders at all levels .....	16
8.2	Field measures for VPA implementation.....	16
8.3	Capacity building .....	16
8.4	The informal timber sector.....	16
9.	Conclusions and Next Steps .....	17
10.	Appendices .....	18
	Appendix I: Itinerary for the FLEGT Field Exchange Programme(FFEP)-Ghana .....	18
	Appendix 3. The FFEP Route.....	23

## 2. Abbreviations and Acronyms

CiSoPFLEG	Enforcement and Governance for Sustainable Forest Management
EU	European Union
FFEP	FLEGT Field Exchange Programme
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FODER	Forêts et Développement Rurale
FoE-Ghana	Friends of the Earth-Ghana
ICED	International Centre for Enterprise and Sustainable Development
JCM	Joinery, Craft and Moulding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RRN	Réseau Ressources Naturelles
SME	Small and Medium size Enterprise
SRA	Social responsibility Agreement
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WTS	Wood Tracking System

### **3. Background**

The European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative is supporting partner countries to strengthen their forest governance and combat illegal logging so that all timber exported to the EU is legally verifiable. The FLEGT also contributes to sustainable economic development in partner countries. The EU has agreed Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with partner countries to guide implementation of the FLEGT. To support the process, the EU is funding initiatives in partner countries towards building the capacities of forest stakeholders to participate in forest monitoring and management for successful implementation of the VPA in their country. One of these initiatives is the 'Enforcement and Governance for Sustainable Forest Management' (CiSoPFLEG) project. This 3-year regional project is being led by Friends of the Earth-Ghana and implemented in four countries of West and Central Africa: Ghana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. Project partners are Forêts et Développement Rural (FODERm, Cameroon), Réseau Ressources Naturelles (RRN, DR Congo), SoS-Forêts (Côte d'Ivoire), International Center for Enterprise and Sustainable Development (ICED, Ghana), and the Department of Food and Natural Resource Economics of the University of Copenhagen (Denmark).

The project is building the capacity of various stakeholder groups including SMEs, civil society organizations and the public and private sectors to support successful negotiations and implementation of VPAs in partner countries. Ghana and Cameroon have already signed their VPAs and are now developing systems to control, verify and license legal timber, while DR Congo and Côte d'Ivoire are currently negotiating theirs.

Sharing information, experiences and lessons between the project partner countries for FLEGT VPA negotiation and implementation is a primary objective of the project. The main methods for this experience sharing have usually been through multi-stakeholder meetings and forums. These include, for example, the Chatham House illegal logging meetings and the IDL group's regional forest forums in West and Central Africa. These have been very effective in bringing together stakeholders with diverse knowledge, experiences and interests to build understanding and synergy around complex forest governance issues.

To complement these activities, the CiSoPFLEG project has used a more novel approach to sharing experiences of FLEGT VPA negotiation and implementation. FoE-Ghana has organised the first CiSoPFLEG field exchange programme (FFEP) between forest stakeholders from the project partner countries. This has enabled a very practical approach to sharing experiences, lessons and challenges of FLEGT VPA implementation. The first field exchange visit took place from 26 to 30 May 2015. The second will be held in Cameroon later in 2016.

### **4. What was the FFEP intended to achieve?**

The FFEP was designed to achieve the following objectives:

- 4.1 To promote transfer of hands-on knowledge and experiences among countries that are negotiating or implementing VPAs in West and Central Africa.

- 4.2 To enable VPA actors to share and learn from the field realities, challenges and best practices with a specific focus on the Wood Tracking System and other components of the Timber Legality Assurance System.
- 4.3 To facilitate networking among FLEGT actors.

## **5. What was the Approach?**

The exchange visit hosted 25 participants from the DR Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Denmark. Prospective participants were nominated by their stakeholder institutions and groups. The criteria for nominating a person were: their involvement and the importance of their role in the VPA process in their country; the level of influence and role played in shaping the VPA process in their country; and their true representation of their stakeholder groups. Participants were then selected from the nominees in consultation with the project partner organisations from each country.

Activities for the exchange visit included site visits to a wood processing facility producing timber for export; production forest reserves where wood tracking is being piloted or in progress; artisanal millers and trade associations to observe and learn about the preparations towards gaining their FLEGT licences; forest communities to discuss forest management issues and benefit sharing; and interactions with NGOs and senior officials of Ghana's Forestry Commission. The final day was devoted to a discussion and synthesis session to recap and reflect on lessons and experiences gathered from the field activities, followed by planning for the future. The exchange program was conducted in both English and French, and participants were given translation kits to ensure they were fully involved throughout the programme.

The details of the itinerary for the field exchange visit are in Appendix 1, and the distribution of representation of key actors from the listed countries is in Appendix 2.

## **6. What did the FFEP involve?**

### **6.1 Official Opening Session**

The official opening session was held at the Ghana Forestry Commission. Dr. Theo Anderson, Director of Friends of the Earth-Ghana, welcomed the participants to Ghana. Hon. Barbara Serwah Asamoah, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, officially opened the exchange visit and congratulated Friends of the Earth-Ghana and partners for the novel idea of bringing together actors from different regional blocks to share experiences in the forestry sector. She stressed the need to work together at regional and sub-regional levels where possible through existing structures and institutions. She encouraged the FFEP participants to sustain the hands-on learning through south-south cooperation to develop the capacity of all stakeholders involved in the FLEGT process at all levels. She shared Ghana's progress towards FLEGT implementation, including: revising the Forest and Wildlife Policy; facilitating exchange between the government, private sector and civil society at all stages of consultation processes; strengthening forest sector institutions through capacity building and financial support; developing policy proposals to regulate the domestic market; and drafting a policy on public procurement. She articulated government's commitment to resolving sensitive issues such as corruption, lack of transparency, insecure tenure, and legal reforms in the sector.

A statement was delivered by Mr. Herve Delsol from the EU Delegation in Ghana, followed by a presentation by Dr. Kwakye Ameyaw of the Forestry Commission to give the institutional overview and mandate of the Forestry Commission. Mr. Beeko, also of the Forestry Commission, outlined progress and challenges of the FLEGT process in Ghana. He said that Ghana had signed the VPA to maintain access to the EU's timber market and emphasized the consistency of FLEGT with the objectives of Ghana's Forest and Wildlife Policy. He added that the VPA one part of the solution, while other parts include improving governance and transparency; involving non-state actors; and reducing the opportunities for system manipulation.

On the status of the VPA in Ghana, he outlined the following:

- Ghana has established a committee to validate a Wood Traceability System and this is in its final stage of development
- Verification protocols have been developed and internal audits are in progress in the field
- The independent auditor will soon present the first audit report
- A domestic market policy and a draft public procurement policy have been initiated to encourage supply of legal timber to the domestic market
- Finally, work is in progress for the implementation of the VPA's impact monitoring framework. The Joint Monitoring Review Mechanism has already identified the impact areas to be followed and the main sources of data to be collected. The TOR for the establishment of a baseline is being finalized.

Mr. Beeko highlighted the following as challenges in VPA implementation:

- The lengthy period of learning required to accept changes in forest governance
- Technical constraints linked to the introduction of new technologies for traceability
- The delays in the development of the traceability system.

He ended his presentation by indicating some gains from the VPA:

- Improved engagement of stakeholders in policy development and ownership of sectoral policy outputs
- Greater adherence of operators to good practices contained in manuals and regulations
- A clear trend towards the continuous improvement of forest management.

## **6.2 Technical session on the WTS**

The first field activity was a brief technical session on the Wood Tracking System. Prof Clement Somuah of the Ata Marie Group and Samuel Mawuli Doe of the Forestry Commission's Timber Validation Department explained the key aspects of the electronic timber traceability system. The Wood Tracking System is an electronic transcription of the manual system applied to the collection, recording, processing and management of data, so there are no significant changes from the existing system. Prof. Somuah said the system is complete and being piloted at selected forest reserves, including Suhuma. The bar code system is still being experimented with, and an interphase being developed to capture forest revenue. The main advantage of the electronic system is the reduction in time for preparing stock and yield maps, which can be reduced from 4 to 6 weeks with the manual system to less than one. Other advantages are the availability of information to monitor mill efficiency, improved control of mills by their owners, increased capacity of producers to meet emerging market requirements, and improved control by the Forestry Commission over the sawmills to meet the new requirements of the timber market, particularly in terms of legality.

The constraints of the electronic Wood Tracking System raised by Mr. Mawuli Doe included:

- Power cuts that delay the transmission and processing of data in the system; and
- The poor quality and coverage of internet across the High Forest areas.

The presentation triggered fruitful exchanges among participants, including the particularities in context regarding the different forms of the legality matrices, the steps in forest planning, the available funding sources, development of the system, and the sustainability of financing.

### **6.3 Visit to the Suhuma Forest Reserve**

The first stop on the tour of Suhuma Forest Reserve was the log dump. Participants were introduced to basic forest management planning principles, as well as the preparation and use of tree stock maps. The process of transferring the manual transcription system to the electronic one was further demonstrated.



*The Deputy Regional Manager of the FSD explaining the stock map to FFEP participants*

At the log yard, the timber marking system was explained in detail by Mr. Emmanuel Yeboah, the Western Region Deputy Regional Manager of the Forest Services Division. Participants were very interested and discussed the similarities and differences to the marking system used in their home countries.





*FSD staff demonstrating basic tree mensuration techniques*

Mr. Samuel Mawuli Doe of the Forestry Commission's Timber Validation Department demonstrated the timber tracking system starting from the stock number etched by scribe knife onto the tree during the stock survey, which was saved in the electronic system. Participants familiarized themselves with how to complete the electronic form with the primary information recorded from a tree that was felled so the marking system could be demonstrated.



*Mr. Mawuli Doe, the Data Reconciliation Manager of the Timber Validation Department, demonstrating how data is input into the devices*



The group was shown a tree stump being used to trial the tree barcode system (below). In the forest, the practical operation of the traceability system, the security of the data, and the transmission of data to the database were all demonstrated. Wood tracking data can still be collected and stored even when there is no internet connectivity: the data is saved in the collection tool and then transmitted when the connection is restored. The collection of tools can provide backup capacity data for about one month.



*A tree stump with the tree barcode that was being trialled*

#### **6.4 Visit to the factory of John Bitar and Co. Ltd**

The group visited the John Bitar and Co. Ltd (JCM) facilities, one of the largest wood processing companies in Ghana. The company sells wood products to Asia, Africa, Europe and the USA. It is also implementing the Forest Stewardship Council's voluntary certification scheme, which increases the market premium of products sold.

The group was accompanied by the company's General Manager, Mr. John Lewis, the Financial Manager and the Certification Manager.



*FFEFP participants being briefed by the production management team at John Bitar and Co. Ltd*

Important units of the mill visited were the log yard, sawmill, veneer mill, and the gluing and lamination units of the moulding mill.

The main concern expressed by the participants during the visit to the company was regarding the workers' welfare. Participants stressed that the industrial health and safety of the workers is an important issue that must be taken seriously by the industry and regulatory authorities. Mr. Eric Lartey, CiSoPFLEG Project Manager at FoE-Ghana, noted that it appears Central African countries are ahead of Ghana in their implementation of industrial health and safety standards, adding that all stakeholders in Ghana's timber industry should comply fully with these standards to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their workers. It appears difficult for factory workers to adapt to change using the personal protective equipment (PPE) that is supplied by factory management.



*John Lewis, the General Manager of JCM interacting with Herve Delsol of the EU and Rojer Tanoe of Cote d'Ivoire at the Company's downstream processing unit*

Although the Forestry Commission is raising awareness about the importance of health and safety regulations, Dr. Richard Gyimah of the Forestry Commission noted that lack of compliance remains a huge challenge in the industry.

## **6.5 Traditional authorities and communities**

The group visited the Amafie community to discuss forest management issues with the Traditional Authorities, farmers and community members and to hear about problems related to benefit sharing, farmer compensation, and fulfilment of social responsibility agreements (SRAs) by timber companies, as well as their experiences using forest forums as a tool for sharing forestry information and promoting dialogue.



*Traditional rights performed to receive FFEP participants at Sefwi Amafie*

The group said they found the interaction with the Chief and the people to be very memorable. When discussing the SRAs and other forest benefits, the community advocated for an increase in the value that is paid by the timber companies to the communities, which is currently just 5% of the stumpage fees. The chief, on behalf of the community, raised legitimate concerns that some companies pay royalties to other stool lands that do not deserve them.

The Deputy Regional Manager of the Forest Services Division addressed some of the issues raised by the community. He explained how the SRA payments are calculated and how beneficiary communities are identified. It emerged that some community members are not even aware that the community receives social benefits from the timber companies and demanded to know how the social benefits are used in the community.





*Interaction with community stakeholders on community right and ownership issues*

It is clear that there are serious issues with grassroots transparency and accountability in the governance and administration of social benefits. The problem goes beyond the Amafie community, with several stools and paramountcies across Ghana experiencing similar problems.

## **6.6 Visit to the artisanal milling site at Akrodie**

During the visit to Akrodie, the team met small-scale wood processing entrepreneurs and learned how the Ghana Government intends to address problems in the informal timber sector, such as the supply of timber to the domestic market. The government has developed a policy for the domestic market, and is also committed to partnering with other actors such as Tropenbos International to experiment with modern facilities that support integration of the domestic market into the national legal supply chain. Research by Tropenbos found that about 80% of timber supplied to the local market is from illegal sources. According to Mr. James Parker, the Project Coordinator of the EU Chainsaw project at Tropenbos, the model developed jointly by Tropenbos and the Timber Industry Development Division of the Forestry Commission aims to address the following nine key issues faced by the formalization of the domestic market:

- 1) Profile and qualifications of persons who act in the domestic market sector (operators)
- 2) Training of operators
- 3) Source of timber
- 4) Type of equipment being used for small-scale processing
- 5) Types of product that can be derived from artisanal processing
- 6) Product quality
- 7) Markets and the destination of the products for their marketing
- 8) Prices of various products, and
- 9) Formal registration of operators and their businesses.

This project brought together operators – who had previously been operating entirely illegally – into a formal system where they are organized in recognized associations. For these legally registered small businesses timber off-cuts and logs purchased from forestry companies who had stronger economic muscles. The assumption has always been that timber supplied by small businesses is legal because their supply companies were themselves legally established and had the logging rights. The Government of Ghana had to negotiate with logging companies to agree to sell a portion of their timber to small operators. Currently, only one company applies this practice. The artisanal millers said their motivation for becoming formalised was to avoid extortion and informal payments. Even so, some of them are still victims of corrupt practices.



*Interaction with artisanal millers at Akrodie in the Brong Ahafo Region*

## **7. Conferences with Ghanaian stakeholders in the forestry sector**

After returning to Accra, a conference was organised where they learned about high level forestry policy issues in Ghana. They also met members of timber trade associations and Ghanaian civil society organisations including Client Earth, Nature and Development Foundation, Civic Response and Forest Watch Ghana.

### **7.1 Discourse with the Ghanaian Civil Society Organisations**

Mr. Samuel Mawutor, Coordinator of Forest Watch Ghana, facilitated the civil society session. He highlighted the key roles and contributions from civil society organisations in the negotiation and implementation of FLEGT and the VPA, the main benefits of VPA that justified the interest of civil society, and the issues to be addressed in forest governance. Important issues discussed included the persistent irregularities in the forest sector, such as the need to convert extant forest concession leases to timber utilisation contracts, and the allocation of timber permits by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources instead of through the legal process of parliamentary ratification. Issues about the

domestic timber market such as the need to enact new laws after the sector reforms, and to recognize permits appropriate for informal operators, are yet to be resolved.



*Conference with Civil Society groups at Erata Hotel in Accra*

Further discussions focused on links between the revised Forest and Wildlife Policy and the various forest legislations. Civil society expressed satisfaction with the policy. Their main concerns previously had been equitable access to forest resources, equitable sharing of benefits from logging, and transparency in the forestry sector. Emerging forest governance issues of global interest have been integrated into the new policy, but the main concern now is the review of the legal regime for implementing all the provisions of the forestry policy. To do this, civil society was encouraged by the participants to remain vigilant and committed to ensuring review of the laws to make them consistent with the Forest and Wildlife Policy.

## **7.2 Exchange with the Private Sector**

Dr. Kwame Asamoah Adam, the President of the Ghana Timber Millers Organisation, set out the trade related challenges and prospects of the VPA, noting that the private sector had expected VPA implementation to be both expensive and time consuming. Ghana's erratic power supply and unstable internet connection are still problems that could delay the transit and export of timber products. Despite these difficulties, the assurance of transparency in timber rights allocations and also the VPA's contribution to combating illegal forest activities motivated the private sector to get involved. Illegal logging has negatively affected the legally established companies, so the fight to combat it has been a strong incentive.



*Conference with Private sector actors at Erata Hotel in Accra*

Another concern raised by the private sector representative was the unsustainable supply of timber to the wood processing plants. Considering the rate of forest loss in Ghana, businesses will not be able to sustain their activities over the long term if an adequate alternative supply of timber is not ensured. Dr. Adam said the government had made two proposals to tackle this: the first is to import timber from other countries such as Cameroon and Gabon, for which an MOU has already been signed. The second is massive investment in plantations and the government is now promoting this.

The industry said log transport will be difficult because there are no ships connecting countries in the Gulf of Guinea. Furthermore, the very low quality of imported logs, and the costs of purchase, export and import taxes, and transportation make the prices of end products so high they are not competitive.

On the second option, Dr. Adam cited several companies now opting for tree plantations, and emphasised that *"The future of forest companies in Ghana resides in forest plantations"*. However, participants considered the plantation option to be a long-term solution while the need for wood is more immediate. They asserted that the banks are not interested in financing tree plantation projects, which also poses a constraint to forest plantation development. The participants were encouraged to invest some of their own profits to establish them.

## **8. Any lessons from the FFEP?**

The most important objective of this programme was to promote the exchange of experiences, lessons and south-south cooperation among FLEGT actors from the West and Central African countries that are negotiating or implementing their VPA FLEGTs. Besides the lessons already shared throughout this document, participants also highlighted the lessons they gained from the exchange programme, as set out below.



## **8.1 Effective involvement of all stakeholders at all levels**

Participating countries observed that the full involvement and commitment of the various parties in VPA processes is an essential prerequisite for effective VPA implementation. Participants also noted real enthusiasm and motivation among the Ghana Forestry Commission staff, supported by evidence of investment by the Forestry Commission towards VPA implementation. They said this attitude must be transferred to the other participating countries as it will contribute to driving their VPAs forward, and encouraged participants in the policy making arena to replicate this in their own countries.

In Ghana, the partnerships and collaboration between government and other actors was seen to contribute very constructively in VPA implementation. Practical examples include collaborations between: the Forestry Commission and Tropenbos in finding solutions to domestic market challenges; the Forestry Commission and Friends of the Earth-Ghana in establishing forest governance baseline indicators for VPA impact monitoring; and Nature and Development in preparing forest reserve management plans. Participants recommended that the VPA in Ghana must create a framework for participation in governance of the sector because this is an essential requirement of the VPA.

Grassroots transparency and accountability in the governance and administration of social benefits from forest resources still remain a challenge for the smooth implementation of FLEGT. This problem transcends the traditional areas. Reform of the land ownership system is urgently needed, and government must develop clear guidelines for benefit sharing in Ghana's forest sector. Rodrigue Ngonzo, President of FODER, Cameroon, noted that, from his experiences on the field trip, one of the most important issues in Ghana is forest and land ownership, adding it would really benefit VPA implementation and law enforcement if the rights of communities as owners of land and forests were recognised, as this would increase their interest in protecting the forest. Prof Thorsten Treue of the University of Copenhagen, noted the trip had been inspiring in terms of showing how advanced the FLEGT VPA is in Ghana, but added that policymakers should change the legislation so that local people own the trees as this would ensure they are fully protected from being given out in timber utilisation contracts.

## **8.2 Field measures for VPA implementation**

To pilot the Wood Tracking System, only a few forest reserves were selected to make it easier to trial. Participants noted this arrangement should support strict implementation of legality systems. It was suggested that Ghanaian actors must not focus on the political promises by government and donors but to consider instead the existing situation and make efforts to mobilise resources internally.

## **8.3 Capacity building**

Civil society organisations have played very important roles in awareness raising and particularly capacity building. The results of their efforts were very visible during the field exchange programme, although participants remarked that the responsibility for building the capacity of stakeholders should really rest with the government.

## **8.4 The informal timber sector**

The visit to Akrodie allowed all participants to learn key lessons. There was firm commitment from all stakeholders to research models for formalizing the informal domestic market. In Ghana, there has been a very effective collaborative approach of involving a broad range of stakeholders including the

Forestry Commission or the Government of Ghana, NGOs (e.g. Tropenbos, Friends of the Earth-Ghana), SMEs, professional associations and the private sector to progress towards legality in the timber supply chain. Artisanal operators were more engaged in the fight against illegal logging because they need legal timber for their small scale sawmills. Actors who were formerly operating illegally have become agents of forest protection.

Participants shared their views on the development of the domestic timber market, including the need for incentives in the public procurement policy; and the need to revise the types of securities or permits for artisanal millers to access forest concessions or TUC areas to harvest timber to fulfill their needs.

## **9. Conclusions and Next Steps**

The feedback from participants of the first FLEGT VPA field exchange programme show it has been very successful in fulfilling its goals of sharing lessons and experiences between countries negotiating or implementing their own FLEGT VPA. It is expected that Côte d'Ivoire and DRC that are still negotiating their VPAs with the EU will learn from the experiences to improve implementation. A second exchange programme is being organised for 2016 in Cameroon, bringing together forest stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, government and communities for further learning and sharing of FLEGT VPA implementation.

## 10. Appendices

### Appendix I: Itinerary for the FLEGT Field Exchange Programme (FFEP)-Ghana

**24-25/05/15:** Arrival of participants from Denmark, Cameroon, DRC and Cote d'Ivoire

**Day 1: Tuesday 26/05/15:** Opening session at the auditorium of Forestry Commission and trip to Sefwi Wiawso in the Western Region by Bus

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
9:00 am- 9:05am	Welcome remarks by the Director of Friends of the Earth-Ghana	Dr. Theo Anderson <i>Director, FoE-Gh</i>
9:05 am – 9:15 am	Self-introduction of participants	All participants
9:15 am - 9:25 am	Statement from the Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana	HE William Hanna <i>The EU Ambassador to Ghana</i>
9:25am – 9:35 am	Address and official opening by the Hon. Minister of Lands and Natural Resources	HE Hon. Nii Osah Mills <i>Minister of Lands and Natural Resources</i>
9:35 am – 9:45 am	A walk through the FLEGT Field Exchange Programme itinerary	Mr. Eric Lartey <i>Project Manager, EU-CiSoPFLEG Project</i>
9:45 am -10: 00 am	Institution overview and core business processes of the Forestry Commission of Ghana	Dr. KwakyeAmeyaw <i>Operations Manager, Forest Services Division</i>
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Progress and current challenges to the FLEGT process in Ghana	Mr. Chris Beeko <i>Director, Timber Validation Dept.</i>
10:15am – 10:30 am	Breakfast/Packed Lunch	All participants
10:30 am- 5:30 pm	Travel by Road from Accra to Sefwi Wiawso	Friends of the Earth-Gh
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Dinner	Kenroses Hotel, S/Wiawso

**Day 2: Wednesday, 27/05/2015:** Visit to Suhuma Forest Reserve and John Bitar and Co. Ltd wood processing facilities at Sefwi Wiawso

Time	Activity/issues	Facilitating Institution/Person
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast	Kenroses Hotel
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Overview of the Wood Tracking System (WTS)	Prof. Clement Somuah <i>(Ata Marie Group)</i> Mr. Samuel Mawuli Doe <i>(Manager-Data Rec., TVD)</i> Dr. Richard Gyimah <i>(Manager-Verification, TVD)</i>
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Travel From Sefwi Wiawso to Suhuma Forest Reserve	FSD, Sefwi Wiawso

<b>10:30 am-12:30 pm</b>	Tour to Suhuma Forest Reserve: Field application of the Wood Tracking System (WTS)	TVD/Forest Services Division/Resource Management Support Centre of FC
<b>12:30 pm-1:30 pm</b>	Travel from Suhuma Forest Reserve to Sefwi Wiawso	FSD, Sefwi Wiawso
<b>1:30 pm-2:15 pm</b>	Lunch	Kenroses Hotel
<b>2:30 pm – 3:00 pm</b>	Interactive discussion with management and production staff: Operation of CoC/WTS, Current challenges facing the private sector, experiences on compensation/social agreements/forest forums/participatory forest management	John Bitar and Co. Ltd <i>General Manager</i>
<b>3:00 pm- 4:30 pm</b>	Tour at processing facilities	John Bitar and Co. Ltd <i>Production Managers</i>
<b>6:30 pm – 7:30 pm</b>	Dinner	Kenroses Hotel, S/Wiawso

**Day 3: Thursday,28/05/2015:** Visit to a forest community and Akrodie artisanal milling group

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Facilitating Institution/Person</b>
<b>7:30 am- 8:30 am</b>	Breakfast	Ken Roses Hotel
<b>8:30 am – 9:00 am</b>	Travel from Sefwi Wiawso to Amafie	All participants
<b>9:00 am - 10:00 am</b>	Interaction with Traditional Authorities/farmers/community members (Sefwi Amafie): experiences on compensation/social agreements/forest forums/ participatory forest management Breakfast	Friends of the Earth-Ghana
<b>10:00 am – 10:30 am</b>	Travel from Amafie to Sefwi Wiawso	FSD, Sefwi Wiawso
<b>11:00 am – 12:30 pm</b>	Travel from Sefwi Wiawso to Akrodie in the Brong Ahafo Region	Friends of the Earth-Gh
<b>12:30 pm – 2:00 pm</b>	Interaction with Artisanal milling groups and tour to their facilities at Akrodie in the Brong Ahafo Region	Mr. James Parker <i>Country Coord. EU Chainsaw Project, TBI</i>
<b>2:15pm – 3:00 pm</b>	Lunch	Catholic Centre, Goaso
<b>3:30 pm – 6:30pm</b>	Travel from Akrodie to Royal Lamerta Hotel, Kumasi	Friends of the Earth-Gh
<b>7:00 pm – 7:30 pm</b>	Dinner	Royal Lamerta Hotel, Ksi

**Day 4: Friday,29/05/2015:** Meetings with key institutions in Accra

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Facilitating Institution/Person</b>
<b>7:00 am – 8:00 am</b>	Breakfast	Royal Lamerta Hotel
<b>8:00 am – 12:00 noon</b>	Travel from Kumasi to Accra by Bus	Friends of the Earth-Gh
<b>12:30 pm -1:30 pm</b>	Lunch	Erata Hotel, East Legon
<b>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm</b>	Interaction with ClientEarth/FoE-Gh/FWG/NDF/ProForest/ CFMU-RMSC: successful project outcomes that are supporting advancement of the VPA/outstanding issues of interest to civil society	Mr. Samuel Mawutor <i>(Coordinator, Forest Watch-Ghana)</i>
<b>3:00 pm – 4:30 pm</b>	Interactive session with key timber trade associations (GTA/GTMO/FAWAG/DOLTA): pending trade issues/challenges and the way forward at Erata Hotel.	Dr. K. A. Adams <i>(President, GTMO)</i>
<b>6:30 pm – 8:00 pm</b>	Dinner	Erata Hotel, East Legon

**Day 5: Saturday, 30/05/2015:** Wrapping up with the FLEGT Field Exchange Programme, a trip to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and shopping in Accra

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Facilitating Institution/Person</b>
<b>7:00 am - 8:00 am</b>	Breakfast	Erata Hotel, East Legon
<b>8:00 am – 10:30 am</b>	Synthesis: The lessons and experiences gathered from practice at Erata Hotel	Mr. Rodrigue Tsangui Ngonzo <i>President, FODER</i>
<b>10:30 pm - 12:00 pm</b>	Trip to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum in Accra	Friends of the Earth-Gh
<b>12:00 pm – 6:00pm</b>	Site seeing and shopping in Accra by Bus	Friends of the Earth-Gh
<b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b>	Farewell dinner	Friends of the Earth-Gh

**Day 6: Sunday, 31/05/2015:** Participants depart from Accra to their respective countries



## Appendix 2 : Participant List

No.	Name	Title	Actor
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>			
1.	KONATE BASSIMORI	Mr.	Forest Administration
2.	Mathieu EGNANKOU WADJA	Prof.	Civil Society
3.	Roger TANOË	Mr.	SMEs
4.	Francois KONAN KOUASSI	Mr.	Media
<b>Cameroon</b>			
5.	Martin MBONGO	Mr.	Forest administration
6.	Rodrigue Tsangue NGONZO	Mr.	Civil Society
7.	Justin Christophe KAMGA	Mr.	Civil Society
8.	Christiane ZEBAZE	Mrs.	Civil Society
9.	Manasse NYANGONO ESSA'A	Mr.	Community Forests
10.	René OUWE MISSI OUKEM	Mr.	Private Sector
11.	Arnaud Kevin M. NGANO	Mr.	Civil Society
<b>DRC</b>			
12.	Yvonne Ayona SANSA	Dr.	Forestry Administration
13.	Jean-Marie Yemomein NKANDA	Mr.	Civil Society
14.	Innocent KHONDE NTOTO	Mr.	Private Sector
<b>Denmark</b>			
15.	Thorsten TREUE	Prof.	Academia
<b>Ghana</b>			
16.	Herve Delsol	Mr.	The EU Delegation
17.	Barbara Serwah Asamoah	Hon.	Ministry
18.			
19.	Kwaky Ameyaw	Dr.	Forestry Administration
20.	Chris BEEKO	Mr.	Forestry Administration
21.	Richard GYIMAH	Dr.	Forestry Administration
22.	Samuel MAWULI DOE	Mr.	Forestry Administration
23.	Albert KATAKO	Mr.	Civil society
24.	Clement SOMUAH	Prof.	Consultant
25.	James PARKER	Mr.	Civil Society
26.	Eric LARTEY	Mr.	Civil Society
27.	Amos Yesutanbul NKPEEBO	Mr.	Civil Society
28.	Enoch Gyamfi AMPADU	Mr.	Civil Society
29.	Clement Akapame	Mr.	Civil Society
30.	Samuel Mawutor	Mr.	Civil Society
31.	Obed Owusu Addae	Mr.	Civil Society



### Appendix 3. The FFEP Route

